

EUROPARL



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IAN HUDGHTON

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CAUTIOUS WELCOME FOR EU FISHERIES REVIEW

Publication of the European Commission's long-awaited Green Paper on Reform of the Common Fisheries Policy has been given a guarded welcome by SNP MEP Ian Hudghton. Commenting on the consultative paper Mr Hudghton said:

"I welcome the admission in the Green Paper that the current CFP has failed to meet its objectives and that substantial reform is required. This is a good start but we still have a long way to go if we are to develop a CFP which actually works."

Cautiously welcoming the references in the Green Paper to some of the measures which the SNP, in consultation with the Scots fishing industry, has been arguing for over recent years, the SNP MEP continued:

"It is heartening to see that the Commission recognises the potential benefits of establishing Regional Management bodies, involving stakeholders and experts from specific fishing zones in shaping management and conservation measures designed to address the diverse needs of zones such as the North Sea."

"The continuation of Relative Stability, retention of 6-12 mile inshore limits, and of special protection for the Shetland Box are among the essential elements for Scotland in the CFP and which are referred to in the Green Paper by the Commission."

"This paper is a discussion document, and clearly requires to be built upon to ensure that Scotland's fishing-dependent communities can have a sustainable future."

"The leaders of Scotland's fishing and processing industries have worked hard, and lobbied effectively, successfully influencing the European Commission in its drafting of the Green Paper."

"The consultation stage will require a sustained effort in support of Scotland's priorities, before the final decisions are taken by EU Governments in the Council of Ministers. Strong political commitment on the part of the Scottish and UK Governments is essential."

Pictured with Ian Hudghton MEP are representatives of Highlands and Islands Local Authorities attending a PE-SCA Fisheries Seminar in Inverness.



MSPs HEAD TO BRUSSELS

MSPs travelled to the political heart of Europe recently for an intensive familiarisation programme including visits to the European Parliament and European Commission in Brussels. The delegation of 15 MSPs representing Parliamentary committees (including Kay Ullrich, Andrew Welsh, Alex Neil, Kenneth Gibson, Kenny MacAskill), also met with senior representatives of Scotland House and Scotland Europa.

The main aim of the visit, primarily funded by the European Parliament, was to speed awareness of the EU among MSPs and to enable committee conveners and representatives to meet their opposite numbers at the EP and influential figures at the other Brussels-based bodies.

Leading the delegation was George Reid MSP, Scottish Parliament Deputy Presiding Officer. Commenting, Mr Reid said:

"The European Union has a major impact on the day-to-day work of the Scottish Parliament. This visit, with its intensive programme of meetings and discussions enabled our Members to share experiences, make contacts and ensure they can be proactive in the decision making process."

Ian Hudghton MEP added:

"I am convinced that if the Scottish Parliament and its Members are to work with Brussels - as they must, since in some areas 80 % of laws in Scotland have origins in the EU - then we must ensure that Scotland exercises the maximum influence available through the devolved Parliament."

"Ultimately though it is only through Independence that Scotland can achieve full rights of representation at European Union level."



Pictured left in Brussels with Ian Hudghton MEP and Jill Evans MEP (Plaid Cymru) are N.S.P.C.C. representatives who gave a presentation on many issues including trafficking in children within Europe.

During a series of visits in Dundee, Stewart Hosie and Gordon Archer were accompanied by MSPs Shona Robison and Alex Salmond and local MEP Ian Hudghton, pictured right at Nynas bitumen refinery.



EPILEPSY WHITE PAPER LAUNCHED

Ian Hudghton was delighted to be able to lend his support, along with Margaret Ewing MSP, at the launch of a European White Paper on Epilepsy. With a total of 6 million people with Epilepsy in Europe, representatives of Scottish Epilepsy Action joined counterparts from all over Europe at the launch in Brussels of a campaign to raise awareness and improve health service responses.

MEP HEARS NFU CONCERNS

Accompanied by Pete Wishart and Mike Weir, Ian Hudghton MEP recently held discussions with representatives of the NFU in Angus. Issues of concern which the politicians undertook to pursue included special livestock movement licences, controls over meat imports, and the need to promote Scotland as a provider of naturally grown, high quality foodstuffs.



SNP MEP Ian Hudghton toured Buckie, Elgin and Forres recently accompanied by Angus Robertson. Pictured above with Ian and Angus are students Helen Gray of Keith and Louisa Thain of Buckie who were among the European Studies Group in Moray College who attended a question and answer session on European matters with the MEP. The tour also included a visit to Moray Council HQ.



On a recent tour of Perth Constituency with Annabelle Ewing and Cllr. Iain Hunter, Ian Hudghton MEP visited Crioich Business Park, Crieff where new small business units have been developed with the aid of European funding. The day included discussions with tourism related business people, who expressed their concern over the effects of the foot and mouth crisis. Also visited was Comrie White Church Community Centre.

Northern College Visit to Brussels

A party of students from Northern College, Aberdeen visited the European Parliament at Brussels as part of a familiarisation study tour of the European Institutions. The party enjoyed a question and answer session with MEPS Ian Hudghton, Neil MacCormick, Jill Evans (Plaid Cymru), Bart Staes (Volksonie) and Brian Crowley (Fianna Fail).

Picture below shows the group in the Parliament with Ian Hudghton and lecturer David Denoon.



BRAINSTORM Young Enterprise Company, a venture originated and managed by students of Forfar Academy has won the Tayside area finals of Young Enterprise and will go forward to the national finals in June. Ian Hudghton MEP is pictured below with the Group at a recent public display of their company products in the Wellgate Centre, Dundee.



IAN HUDGHTON'S DIARY

- 24 MARCH
Fisheries 2001 Exhibition, Glasgow
- 25 MARCH
North Tayside SNP AGM, Forfar
- 26 MARCH
'Brainstorm' Young Enterprise group, Forfar Academy
- 27 MARCH
Briefing re Animal Transport, Brussels
- 28 MARCH
European Law Students Assoc. Aberdeen visit to EP, Brussels
- 31 MARCH
Adoption meeting of Ian Angus, Aberdeen South
- 2-6 APRIL
EP Plenary Session, Strasbourg
- 9-12 APRIL
Committee meetings, Brussels
- 14 APRIL
SNP National Executive Cttee, Edinburgh
- 16-21 APRIL
Constituency programme of visits/meetings around Scotland
- 18 APRIL
Dundee College student event, Marryat Hall
- 23-24 APRIL
Fisheries Cttee, Brussels
- 25 APRIL
Employment & Social Affairs Cttee, Brussels
- 26 APRIL
Economic & Monetary Affairs Cttee, Brussels
- 1 MAY
Gordon Highlanders Museum Launch, Aberdeen
- 2-3 MAY
EP Plenary session, Brussels
- 7-10 MAY
Group meetings, Brussels
- 13 MAY
Tayside Racial Equality Council Careers event, Dundee

Ian Hudghton

Scottish National Party
Member of the European Parliament

DUNDEE

8 Old Glamis Road,
Dundee DD3 8HP
Parliamentary Assistant - Kate Young
eMail: kyoung@mep.sol.co.uk

Tel: 01382 903206/623200

Fax: 01382 903205

ABERDEEN

70 Rosemount Place,
Aberdeen AB25 2XJ.

Tel: 01224 623150

Fax: 01224 623160

eMail: ihudghton@europarl.eu.int

Web: www.snp.org

EXECUTIVE DENYING FISHERMEN COMPENSATED TIE-UP SCHEME

Speaking in the Fisheries Committee of the European Parliament, Ian Hudghton MEP called on the Director General of Fisheries in the European Commission, Mr. Steffen Smidt, to clarify the possibility of compensated tie-up schemes to mitigate the disastrous knock-on effects the cod recovery plan and the closure of large chunks of the North Sea has had on juvenile haddock stocks. After the debate Mr. Hudghton commented:

"The response of the Director General was positive, emphasising that if Member States want to use the opportunities available under the EU structural funds regulation, the Commission would look at them in a favourable manner. The Scottish Executive has no excuse to stand idly by. The Commission was very clear that there are opportunities for compensating fishermen, but that it is for the Member States themselves to ask to use them."

"These measures include compensating fishermen for not going to sea, compensation which is co-financed by the Commission. The Scottish Executive must put up its share of the money."

This newsletter is published by Ian Hudghton and distributed free of charge to keep constituents in touch with developments in the European Parliament and the work of the SNP Euro-MP.

